

## Message Text

SECRET

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ALATHERTONJR:MAR

APPROVED BY NEA/ALATHERTONJR.

S/S: MR. ORTIZ

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R 052043Z FEB 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

S E C R E T STATE 028500

NODIS

FOL RPT NEW DELHI 1767 ACTION SECSTATE 5 FEB.

QUOTE

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 1767

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: INDO-US RELATIONS AND THE EFFECT ON US RELATIONS WITH  
INDIA'S NEIGHBORS

1. AS YOU KNOW, I HAVE BEEN MAKING IT CLEAR TO ALL THE SENIOR  
INDIANS I HAVE BEEN SEEING THAT IMPROVEMENT IN INDO-US RELATIONS  
JUST CANNOT TAKE PLACE WHILE THE PRIME MINISTER AND OTHER HIGH  
INDIAN LEADERS CONTINUE TO POKE AWAY AT THE US. I APPRECIATE THE  
TOUGH PARALLEL LINE TAKEN BY JOE SISCO WITH AMBASSADOR KAUL IN  
WASHINGTON. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE EFFECT OF ALL THIS WILL BE.

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INDIA CERTAINLY HAS AN INTEREST IN GETTING THE THINGS FROM US

IT NEEDS. THE POINT I AM TRYING TO GET ACROSS IS THAT THESE MAY NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE IF RELATIONS ARE BAD. I DO NOT ASK FOR MUCH; I WOULD BE PERFECTLY HAPPY IF MRS. GANDHI WERE SIMPLY TO IGNORE THE US.

2. MY REASON FOR WRITING NOW IS TO EXPLAIN WHY I AM PURSUING THIS HARD LINE. IT IS NOT BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE HAVE SO LITTLE INTEREST HERE THAT WE SHOULD NOT CARE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS IN INDIA AND THE REGION GENERALLY. IT IS IN FACT BECAUSE I BELIEVE THERE ARE SOME THINGS OF IMPORTANCE TO US HERE AND PURSUING A HARD LINE SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY TACTICS WHICH STAND ANY CHANCE OF GETTING US WHAT WE WANT. MY POINT IS WE STILL WANT STABILITY IN INDIA AND STABILITY IN THE REGION. WE STILL WANT AN INDIA WHERE THE RUSSIANS AREN'T IN CONTROL. WE STILL BELIEVE INDIA WILL BE IMPORTANT TO US AS A MODERATE LDC IN THE ONGOING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEBATE.

3. CONSEQUENTLY, IT SEEMS PARTICULARLY IMPORRANT TO ME THAT WE NOT COMPLICATE THE EFFORT WE ARE MAKING IN INDIA BY SHIFTS IN OUR RELATIONS WITH INDIA'S NEIGHBORS WHICH THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT MIGHT SEE AS THREATENING. OUR PROBLEMS WITH MRS. GANDHI AND HER GOVERNMENT ARE SERIOUS BUT THEY ARE ESSENTIALLY BILATERAL. AND IT WOULD BE AMISTAKE I THINK TO COMPOUND THEM BY BRINGING IN ELEMENTS SUGGESTING A CHANGE IN THE WHOLE US POSITION TOWARD THE SUBCONTINENTAL AREA.

4. AT EVERY CROSSROADS IN THE PUNJAB THERE IS A SHERMAN TANK AS A CONSTANT REMINDER THAT THE US WAS INDIA'S ENEMY IN THE PAST. IT WOULD BE FOLLY TO ADD ARMS ON THE PAKISTANI (OR BENGALI) SIDE WHICH WOULD ONLY DECORATE MORE CROSSROADS IN THE FUTURE. WE ARE TRYING TO GET MRS. GANDHI'S ATTENTION BY THE TOUGH BILATERAL LINE WE ARE TAKING. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, WANT TO TOTALLY CONCEN-  
TRATE HER FOCUS AND FACILITATE HER DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEMS BY PROVIDING REAL AMMUNITION FOR HER TO USE AGAINST US ON THE SUPERSENSITIVE ISSUE OF INDIAN SECURITY AND HER RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN, BANGLADESH AND NEPAL.

5. I AM SURE THERE WILL BE ISSUES OTHER THAN ARMS THAT RAISE THE SAME QUESTION--THINGS WE WILL BE TEMPTED TO DO FOR OUR FRIENDS, THE PAKISTANIS AND BENGALIS. THE BENGALI EFFORT TO GET US TO  
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HELP THEM GET RID OF A TOUBLESOME GENERAL (NURUZZAMAN) IS A CASE IN POINT. I HEARTILY AGREE WITH THE WAY WASHINGTON IS HANDLING THIS ONE. I DON'T INTEND TO COMMENT ON EACH ONE OF THESE THINGS AS THEY COME UP BUT THOUGHT IT WORTHWHILE TO ELABORATE ON THE POLICY I AM FOLLOWING HERE.  
SAXBE

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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NNN

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